

**Air Quality Conformity Task Force  
Summary Meeting Notes  
August 23, 2012**

Participants:

Dick Fahey – Caltrans

Ted Matley – FTA

Stew Sonnenberg– FHWA

Ginger Vagenas – EPA

Rodney Tavitas – Caltrans

Brenda Dix – MTC

Stefanie Hom - MTC

Sri Srinivasan – MTC

Adam Crenshaw – MTC

Penelope Amuyunzu – MTC

1. **Welcome and Self Introductions:** Stefanie Hom (MTC) called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. See attendance roster above.

2. **PM<sub>2.5</sub> Interagency Consultations**
  - a. **PM<sub>2.5</sub> Conformity Exempt List Review**

Stefanie indicated there was one project on the exempt list this month – TIP ID SCL110119, VTA Light Rail Transit Signal Priority Improvement.

Dick Fahey (Caltrans), Ted Matley (FTA), Stew Sonnenberg (FHWA), Ginger Vagenas (EPA), Rodney Tavitas (Caltrans), and Stefanie Hom (MTC) agreed that the project is exempt.

**Final Determination:** FHWA, Caltrans, EPA, FTA, and MTC concurred that the project is exempt from PM<sub>2.5</sub> project level analysis.

3. **Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (Proposed Final)**

Stefanie Hom (MTC) indicated the Proposed Final Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is similar to the draft that the Task Force reviewed a few months ago. There were two comments on the draft Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2013 TIP: one from VTA regarding modeling assumptions for HOV lanes on Capitol Expressway between Capitol Avenue and Tully Road in San Jose, and one from the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project regarding particulate matter (PM). MTC provided clarification for both questions, and responses are included in section 2 of the Proposed Final Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2013 TIP.

Sri Srinivasan (MTC) indicated that MTC has received several comments on the Draft 2013 TIP and staff is evaluating how to respond to those comments. A possible approach MTC is considering is delaying the 2013 TIP adoption. The Commission is scheduled to make that decision at the September 25, 2012 Commission meeting. If the TIP is delayed, MTC will likely do a 2011 TIP amendment and Transportation Air Quality Conformity, which will include a subset with all the changes proposed for the 2013 TIP.

Dick Fahey (Caltrans) asked for clarification on the changes from the draft Transportation Air Quality Conformity presented a few months ago and the Proposed Final. He asked if the only changes were the comments and response to comments. Sri indicated that there are some changes to the project descriptions, and mostly changes to funding plans. No new non-exempt projects were added.

Dick indicated that he is fine with the Proposed Draft, and is looking forward to getting more information on the potential TIP delay.

Ted Matley (FTA) indicated that he was fine with the Proposed Draft. He will wait for comments on the TIP timeline.

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) indicated that she was fine with the Proposed Draft.

Rodney Tavitias (Caltrans) indicated that he was fine with the Proposed Draft.

Stew Sonnenberg (FHWA) indicated that he heard there have been discussions on the changing TIP timeline. He asked if the comments on the Proposed Draft Transportation Air Quality Conformity for the 2013 TIP are not related to the comments on the 2013 TIP. Sri indicated that yes, the comments on the Proposed Draft are not related to the 2013 TIP. The VTA comment was a modeling question that MTC staff was able to resolve with VTA staff, and the East Bay comment can only be addressed by the RTP/SCS process and not the TIP itself.

Stew indicated that it is good that there will be more discussion on TIP timeframe and whether MTC should start the TIP process with everyone else in the state, or keep the current TIP schedule and adopt the RTP/SCS after. He asked if the TIP schedule changes, would the changes be reflected in this Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Sri indicated that if MTC does a new TIP adoption, there would be a new Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis that would apply for the new TIP and RTP/SCS.

Stew asked if the new TIP adoption would restart the comment period. Sri indicated yes.

Sri added that if MTC decides to do a new TIP adoption, then they would do an amendment for the 2011 TIP. MTC would need to do a new Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis, but it would be at a much smaller scale.

#### **4. Consent Calendar**

##### **a. May 24, 2012 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary**

##### **b. July 26, 2012 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary**

Stefanie Hom (MTC) indicated the May 24, 2012 meeting notes were revised to include Andrea Gordon from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) clarified that the exemption decision for the I-880 North Safety Improvement project (ALA050019) discussed at the July 26, 2012 meeting should not be a precedential determination for similar projects submitted in the future. She had follow-up conversations with OTAC and they indicated that it was not necessarily an exempt project.

More details should have been provided on the auxiliary lanes. Stefanie indicated that she will revise the July 26, 2012 meeting notes to make that clear.

## **5. Other Business**

Sri Srinivasan (MTC) requested to move up the date of the September Air Quality Conformity Task Force meeting from September 26, 2012 to sometime before September 25, 2012, which is the date when the Commission will discuss the TIP schedule. If the TIP is going to be delayed, staff would like to come to the Task Force for approval on the TIP amendment and Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis before the Commission meeting.

Stefanie Hom (MTC) indicated she would send out a Doodle poll reschedule the September meeting.

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) requested that if the agenda for the next meeting is going to be very full, she would like the meeting materials as early as possible. Stefanie indicated they will send out meeting materials no later than two weeks before the meeting.

Stefanie Hom (MTC) concluded the meeting at 10:00 am.

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